

democracy who has worked to expose the depraved horror that is the Cuban tyranny.

Since his initial incarceration in the sub-human conditions of the tyranny's totalitarian dungeons, Dr. García Paneque's weight has dropped from a healthy 190 pounds to an emaciated 100 pounds. Since last year prison authorities at the Las Mangas Prison have not allowed Dr. García Paneque access to fresh air or sunlight.

According to his mother, Dr. García Paneque suffers from dizziness due to a serious episode of diarrhea and profuse rectal bleeding and may be suffering from a duodenal ulcer. It is reported that the bleeding is a complication related to an eating disorder known as Malabsorption Syndrome, which he developed in prison. The condition does not allow food he ingests to nourish his body.

Dr. García Paneque's health while languishing in a hellish dungeon has been a point of constant concern for some time now. In June Dr. García Paneque was diagnosed with a kidney tumor and pneumonia. As a result of the pneumonia, he suffers from pleural effusion of the right lung and constant chest colds. Yet as Dr. García Paneque's condition continues to deteriorate, his jailers have refused to allow him consultation with doctors not affiliated with the prison or even provide him adequate medical care.

Madam Speaker, this is a textbook case of how the Cuban totalitarian regime treats prisoners of conscience who dare speak the truth and call for democracy and human rights.

But this cruel and inhumane treatment is not confined to those inside the regime's gulags. Since Dr. García Paneque's arrest, his wife and four young children faced intense harassments and attacks by angry mobs on their home. They have since fled Cuba and were granted asylum in the United States. His wife says that Dr. García Paneque "takes great comfort from his Bible . . . which he reads every day." While his wife says his physical health continues to suffer, his "spiritual health is strong."

On October 24, 2007, Dr. García Paneque's wife and his daughter Shirlen were received and honored by President George W. Bush at the White House, where the President publicly called upon the regime to release Dr. García Paneque forthwith.

Even though Dr. García Paneque has endured constant physical and psychological torture at the hands of regime thugs, he continues to demand human rights and dignity for the people of Cuba. He is languishing in the squalor of the infernal gulag at the whim of a merciless tyrant, simply because he believes in freedom, truth, democracy, and human rights for the people of Cuba.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that journalists and physicians like Dr. García Paneque are locked in dungeons for writing the truth. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Jose Luis García Paneque before his prison sentence turns into a death sentence.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor David M. Rubenstein, Co-Founder and Managing Director of The Carlyle Group, an American private equity firm. Born and raised in Baltimore, David Rubenstein graduated from Baltimore City College and went on to graduate magna cum laude from Duke University and earn his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was an editor of the Chicago Law Review. Prior to founding The Carlyle Group, David served as the Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy during the Carter Administration.

Most recently, David has become more well-known thanks to a Sotheby's auction item he purchased in December. On December 17, 2008, with a winning bid of over \$21 million, David acquired the last copy of the Magna Carta remaining in the United States. The original Magna Carta, first signed in Britain in 1215, established the rights of the English citizens and placed checks on the power of the ruling monarch. Our own U.S. Constitution incorporates ideas and phrases almost directly from this historic document. The copy David purchased in December is a copy from 1297 when it was signed into law by the British Parliament.

Since 1985, it has been displayed at the National Archives as part of the Charters of Freedom exhibit, alongside the original Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights. David has announced that the copy will continue to be housed at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

David is an active member of several Boards of Directors or Trustees, including Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Chicago, Lincoln and Kennedy Centers for the Performing Arts, and the Council on Foreign Relations. David is also a member of The Business Council, the Madison Council of the Library of Congress, the Trilateral Commission and the National Advisory Committee of J.P. Morgan Chase and the Washington Economic Club, of which he is President-elect.

In addition to his extensive involvement in numerous organizations, David is also active in philanthropy. He has made significant contributions and donations to the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Duke's Terry Stanford Institute of Public Policy, the Lincoln Center and the Johns Hopkins Medical System here in Maryland.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor David M. Rubenstein. His legacy as a leader in policy and finance will be matched only by his devotion to philanthropic projects. It is with great pride that I congratulate David Rubenstein on his exemplary career in business, law and government.

SMALL BUSINESS TELEWORK PROMOTION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Small Business Telework Promotion Act" to assist our Nation's small businesses in establishing successful telework programs for their employees.

Across America, numerous employers are responding to the needs of their employees and establishing telework programs. In 2000, there were an estimated 16.5 million teleworkers. By the end of 2004, there were an estimated 30 million teleworkers, representing an increase of almost 100 percent in 4 short years. Unfortunately, the majority of growth in new teleworkers comes from organizations employing over 1,500 people, while just a few years ago, most teleworkers worked for small to medium-sized organizations.

By not taking advantage of evolving technology to establish successful telework programs, some small businesses are losing out on a host of benefits that will save them money, and make them more competitive. Successful telework programs can help small business owners to retain valuable employees by allowing them to work from a remote location, such as their home or a telework center.

In addition to the cost savings realized by businesses that employ teleworkers, there are a number of related benefits to society and the employee. For example, telecommuters help reduce traffic and cut down on air pollution by staying off the roads during rush hour. Fully 80 percent of home-only teleworkers commute to work on days they are not teleworking. Telework can also give employees more time to spend with their families, and reduce stress levels by eliminating the pressure of a long commute.

The bill establishes a program in the Small Business Administration, SBA, to raise awareness about telework among small business employers and to encourage those small businesses to establish telework programs for their employees.

Additionally, an important provision in the bill directs the SBA Administrator to undertake special efforts for businesses owned by, or employing, persons with disabilities and disabled America veterans. At the end of the day, telework can provide more than just environmental benefits and improved quality of life. It can open the door to people who have been precluded from working in a traditional office setting due to physical disabilities.

Several hurdles to establishing successful telework programs could be cleared by enacting our legislation. The bill will go a long way towards educating small business owners on how they can draft guidelines to make a telework program an affordable, manageable reality and expand their own telework policies.

Here is a brief outline of the bill's provisions—

Section One—provides a short title, namely "The Small Business Telework Promotion Act".

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the potential benefits of increasing the extent to which employees have the option of teleworking.